

# MISSION CHRONICLES

Information for Locals

*Presented by*

*Mission San Juan Capistrano*

Projects Underway to Ensure the  
Preservation of Mission History

## NEW ORGAN IN THE HISTORIC SERRA CHAPEL

To celebrate the 300th Anniversary of the birth of Blessed Junipero Serra, the Mission will install a new organ in the historic Serra Chapel.

The Serra Chapel in many respects is the “jewel” within the Jewel of the California Missions. Constructed shortly after the founding of the Mission by Father Serra himself in 1776, it remains the only chapel of all the missions still substantially standing where Father Serra celebrated the Eucharist, baptized and conferred the Sacrament on Confirmation in his capacity as Padre Presidente of the California Missions.

The new organ that will now grace the Serra Chapel will be a digitally sampled instrument crafted by the Walker Technical Company in Zionsville, Pennsylvania. It will stylistically mirror instruments from the 17th & 18th centuries. Master wood craftsman Mr. William Zeiler is crafting the console and casework. The casework incorporates themes from the Retablo that graces the sanctuary. Through the use of inlaid woods as well as accents in hand applied gold leaf, the instrument will be a stunning complement to the recently restored Serra Chapel.

Because of temperature variations in the Serra Chapel as well as significant technological advancements in digital sound sampling, a Walker instrument was selected to replace the previous modest instrument. It will be able to play the great organ literature of all periods and will be a support not only for the Sacred Liturgy but also concerts in the historic Chapel. The new organ installation will be completed in February 2014.

Monsignor Arthur Holquin said: “We are grateful to the members of the Foundation, specifically EJ Tracy, George O’Connell, Tony Moiso and Bill Cvengros, for their gifts in making this enhancement to the Chapel possible along with Mr. and Mrs. Saint-Aubin, members of the Mission Preservation Society Director’s Circle who have come together to underwrite this significant project of over \$160,000.”

This entire project, which also includes lighting improvements, seismic retrofitting of the choir loft and improvements to the flooring, is 100% privately funded as the Mission receives no Church or State funding. The generosity of these Mission supporters will allow beautiful music that celebrates the historic and religious significance of the Chapel to be played and enjoyed for generations to come.

